



VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 • APRIL 2019

Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Fellow Citizens -

It is with great excitement we bring to you the first issue of the first edition of the Pittman Center Times! Our commitment is to bring community news to the people of our community, every month.

Due to costs, this first edition will be the only edition received by mail. However, if you would like to receive future editions, we are happy to send your news to you the free way - via email! Your email address will be used exclusively for the Pittman Center Times and will not be shared or used in any other way. All following editions of the PCTimes will contain the same basic format with reports and news from the different boards and committees. We will also be introducing and highlighting a city employee every month as well as sharing news about community events, announcing volunteer opportunities, and reporting on road operations. It will also provide a "History Corner", with a story, legend or truth about Pittman Center. The PCTimes will also highlight one of our many amenities each month, such as our library, walking trails, parks, etc. - with pictures and information about them.

We welcome and value your input and suggestions for other articles or information you might like to see in the future. If you know of a community event, we want to hear from you! This newsletter is for and about our community!

If you would like to receive additional editions of the Pittman Center Times, you may sign up by sending us your email information at astownhall@gmail.com, by calling our friendly Town Hall, at 865-436-5499, or visiting our website and filling out the newsletter signup form. There are no fancy prompts to sign you up. Just tell us you would like to receive the PCTimes and give us your email address. Easy!

We hope you enjoy this first edition of the Pittman Center Times!

Your PCTimes Volunteers

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I want to thank Jody Trammell and Kris Johnson for volunteering to do a newsletter for the Town of Pittman Center. This newsletter will serve as one avenue to better inform the citizens of our town, as well as others, about what is going on in our town. It is my hope that through increased awareness there will be greater support for the mission statement of the Town of Pittman Center, and increased involvement in shaping our town's future. It is an honor to serve as the mayor of the Town of Pittman Center, and an honor to have a spot in this first edition of our town's newsletter.

Jerry Huskey
Mayor



PITTMAN CENTER WELCOMES NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Pittman Center is looking forward to welcoming its new Town Administrator, Mr. Michael Borders, on April 8th! Michael was born and raised in Kingsport, then obtained his Master of Public Administration degree from ETSU. After graduation, he worked in the private sector with the McDonald's corporation where, he states, he received invaluable training in management skills through their very aggressive and pro-active training program. With Michael's strong desire to work in public service, and after receiving training and working in management, he was a natural for the position of Town Recorder for the town of Unicoi. Michael is firmly committed to an open and transparent work environment, and believes communication is the key to a thriving community. He wants to consider the Board of Mayor and Aldermen's vision, along with the citizens' concerns to assure a beneficial outcome for Pittman Center. Michael is bringing with him - his feline family, Mr. Kitty and Leia. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and playing his tuba. He is presently in the Johnson City Concert Band, where he plays primarily big band and concert type music and is looking to join some local music groups in our area. Please join us in welcoming Michael at a reception for him on Tuesday, April 16th from 3:30-6:00 at the Town Hall.



CHIEF'S CORNER

Hopefully this is the first of many newsletters where I am able to contribute. The Pittman Center Police Department is proud to serve our community. It is truly an honor to be your police chief. I want to remind everyone that April 27th will be a very busy day in the Town of Pittman Center. Pittman Center Heritage Day will be taking place on the 27th. This is a fun event and I hope many of you will attend. Also, on the same day is the "Mountain Man March" which is a large, marathon style event that takes place partially in Pittman Center. The entire Emerts Cove area and a large portion of Pittman Center Rd (Hwy 416) will have a large number of runners/pedestrians on this day. In addition to the increased traffic for Heritage Day I want to remind everyone to be extremely cautious on the roads. I estimate the number of runners to be several thousand. All roads will be open to vehicle AND pedestrian traffic. With appropriate driving caution I expect

no problems. All Pittman Center Officers will be on duty as well as members of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Gatlinburg Police Department, and the Sevier County Sheriff's Office. Arriving at Heritage Day via East Parkway to Webb Creek Road will avoid the marathon runners and would be the safest route.

Thank you
Clint Parton, Chief of Police

MEET OUR CITY EMPLOYEES!



This month we are shining the spotlight on April Sutton. April is going to be one of the friendly voices answering the phone at the Town Hall and will help you with anything you need - along with the other 10 things she is doing! But, she never breaks her smile or willingness to help. We are lucky to have her with us!

What do you do?

I am the Administrative Assistant. I order supplies. I answer the phones, assist in processing payments for taxes, citations, hotel motel taxes and dumpster payments. I help in preparing meeting minutes and some of the agendas. I attend our Board of Mayor and Alderman meetings and assist in taking minutes. I am also on our Rec Board and attend Tree Board meetings along with taking the minutes and preparing the agendas. I am here to assist in helping the other staff with whatever needs to be done. Another part of my job is helping with the organization of Heritage Day, Yule Log, Arbor Day and Tree Day for our town.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy helping people who come by town hall and working with the other staff. I enjoy all that I have learned about our Local Government and look forward to knowing more. It would be easier and quicker to say what I don't like about my job, that would be nothing. I hope I can serve the town for many years to come.

What do you like about Pittman Center?

The beauty of the trees, plants, the sound of the creek and all the animals that call Pittman home. This is the first place I experienced a bear near my home, that was something! Many times, my husband and I have watched as a red fox would run from one side of the road to the next. Coyotes are very brave and apparently Pittman is where all the turkeys in the world gather and call it home. The snow is not too bad in the winter and spring is amazing! The people are a close-knit family and almost everyone knows their neighbors. I love the way this community took my family in when my husband became pastor of the Pittman Center circuit for the United Methodist Church and treated us with all the love that you would from a dear old friend.

Where is your hometown?

I have been a Sevier County girl all my life and NEVER plan on changing that. Tennessee soil has my family roots planted deep.

Anything Else?

I am a wife of 21 years to the most wonderful husband, Bobby and I am momma to our son Connor, daughter in-law Ayla and daughter Rachel. I am blessed and honored to be a part of the Town of Pittman Center.

TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

All town meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome and *encouraged* to attend! The Planning Commission meets on the second Monday of each month at City Hall at 4:30. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen meets on the third Thursday of each month at 4:30. The “Times” will provide a brief synopsis of the various Boards and committees, but for a complete report, go to www.pittmancenter.tn.com, where you may find more details.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

On Highway 416, Pittman Center Road, the water line contractor has been testing and repairing leaks. That should be completed March 28, 2019. Most of the individual taps to water customers have been completed. The waterline shall be sanitized and in use soon.

The Hills Creek Road Repair Project: The contractor is to be completed with construction activities that disturb the river bed by April 15, 2019. The contractor’s foreman stated the work is on schedule to meet this deadline.

The Grassy Branch Bridge was inspected by the state in January and March and was found to have the load carrying capacity posted on the bridge. Public meetings will be advertised and held at City Hall in the future to review the proposed bridge design options.

Pittman Center Road north of Webb Creek Road: Heavy Rain and flooding compromised the integrity of the road. Lanes are blocked until repair work can be completed. This is a TDOT project.

DON'T MISS SPRING HERITAGE DAY!

Spring Heritage Day Festival will be April 27th from 9-3, and admission and parking are free!! The mayor, Jerry Huskey, will serve as the emcee of this year’s events, which will begin with an opening prayer and the National Anthem, followed by a bag pipe performance. In addition, entertainment will be provided by local musician, Jimbo Whaley for those who chose to just sit and enjoy listening for a spell ... or stroll around the different craft and food vendors - for those who want to enjoy good crafts and food! Don’t forget your cotton candy or strawberry shortcake for dessert! There will be face painting for the kids as well as the famous Shark Race in the nearby creek ... a thrill for children and adults, alike! Plans are still being finalized, at print, for other surprises and events.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE GREENBRIER DERBY!



Pittman Center Elementary School is hosting Greenbrier Derby Day on Saturday May 4th from 9-11 AM! Proceeds from the event will benefit the running clubs and teams at the school. There will be two races to suit your running style! Both the 5k and 8k will begin and end at the “Barn” on Emerts Cove Road, with each having a different route along the river. Total cost for entry will be \$22.50. Lace up those running shoes and help our future runners! For further information, go to www.runsignup.com/race/events/tn/sevierville/TheGreenbrierDerby5k.

THOSE ZANY TREE HUGGERS

In 2018 Pittman Center received the prestigious official recognition of a “Tree City USA”, dedicated to the development, conservation, and care of our urban forest. To that end, the most recently appointed Tree Board has established both short, and long-term projects and goals, and has aggressively begun working on them. After lengthy and tedious meetings to update and revise Ordinance 217, which outlines duties and responsibilities of the Board, as well as restrictions and controls for trees on public lands, the Board members have now turned their attention and energies toward working on our established projects.

During this coming year we plan, or have already begun to:

- a) Begin a conversation with SCES to explore the possibility of avoiding using chemicals under their power lines, specifically glyphosate.
- b) Prepare packages for all permit applicants with information regarding native and non-native vegetation, Firewise landscaping tips, ordinance codes, and general care of trees. (Also available at City Hall for public.)
- c) Develop a plan to begin the control and eradication of kudzu in Pittman Center, possibly using goats or sheep.
- d) Celebrate two Tree Days per year ... one in Spring, and one in Fall involving the local community and school with distribution of seedlings.
- e) Beautification of Pittman Center entrances and picnic areas.
- f) Develop a general plan for the use of the Spring Branch Walking Trail, in coordination with UT Urban Forestry Program students, and the Gilbert Group.

OUR AMENITY SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH IS

THE SPRING BRANCH WALKING TRAIL

The Spring Branch Walking Trail, located at the end of Spring Branch Road, is a peaceful, interesting destination for a quiet walk, learning about plants, birdwatching and reflection. The property was donated to the town of Pittman Center via Foothills Land Conservancy in 2009 and is open to the public for pedestrian use during daylight hours. The greenway contains an open grassy area along the creek maintained by town staff and a walking trail through a wooded area. The trail currently is a 'Y' with upcoming plans to complete a short loop. Interesting features include the remains of two homesites, one with a spring box and chimney pile. Of botanical interest are the large clonal (root-system connected) populations of club moss, specifically southern running-cedar, found on the hilltop along the right (eastern) fork of the trail. There are several different species of this ancient and interesting group of 'fern allies' in our part of Tennessee. Spring wildflowers include rue anemone, Carolina vetch, pussytoes, bloodroot and violets. Two very aggressively invasive non-native species cover over an acre near an old homesite: English ivy and wintercreeper (climbing euonymus). Once these groundcovers are removed there will be more native wildflowers to see. The Pittman Center Tree Board plans to coordinate invasive plant removal, marking the boundary and preparing a map and management plan. The University of Tennessee Urban Forestry program is interested in helping with greenway planning as a student project. Volunteers will be welcome as well.



FIREWISE PROGRAM COMING TO PITTMAN



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Recently, the Town of Pittman Center Tree Board met and discussed becoming a Firewise USA committee. Firewise USA is a national program that offers a community approach to making areas safer from wildfire. The Firewise program is intended for places just like Pittman Center to provide Firewise information to homeowners, plan outreach programs, and participate in community wide Firewise efforts. There are many Firewise committees operating in the county, and each are unique in how they approach Firewise activities. Volunteers may be interested in helping the

committee track volunteer hours, writing grants, helping neighbors with brush, or addressing larger community issues such as safety zones and matters of community planning. Pittman Center is looking for volunteers with a wide range of interests and skills, from tree trimming, emergency planning, techies, and planning visionaries, to those who can use a pen or pencil! Whatever your specialty or interest, the Firewise committee has a role for you.

HELP US ALL!! BE A VOL!!!

Volunteers are the heart of the community, and we need heart! We all have busy lives, demands and commitments - but even a few beats of heart will go a long way toward a stronger life for our mountain community. If you might be able to spare a beat, opportunities are listed below.

Unless otherwise indicated below, please contact April Sutton at Town Hall, 865-435-5499, and let her know your preference. We will contact you in the near future, when the event is scheduled. Volunteers are presently needed for:

Marking perimeter of the Spring Branch Walking Trail

We are needing a group of volunteers to retag the perimeter of the Spring Branch Walking Trail, which was originally tagged in 2009. Over the years some of the tags have fallen from some of the trees, and we need to retag them. This event should take between 2-3 hours. Wear your hiking shoes and bring a hammer! Date to be announced.

Pulling Invasive Ivy and Winter Creeper

Invasive species are a threat to our natural environment, as they encroach and smother native vegetation in our forests. English Ivy and Winter Creeper are two common species in our area, but are easily pulled from the ground, due to their shallow root system. The SBWT has several patches that need to be eliminated. If you can donate a few hours to the cause - please give us a call!! This would be a great educational and fun opportunity with your children! Date to be announced.

Beautification of PC Entrances and Picnic Areas

We have four entrances, and several park areas in Pittman Center that could always use a little "TLC". If gardening might be your thing, and you would be willing to share your talents, we can use your help!

Firewise Program

Whether you could give a few minutes to help with paper work, or donate some muscle for outdoor work, the Firewise program can use your help! Any persons interested in being a part of a Firewise committee should please contact Julie Blaker at jablaker835@gmail.com.

PITTMAN CENTER ...

STORY, LEGEND, TRUTH

Look for the new Glenn Cardwell exhibit in the Glenn Cardwell Heritage Museum (in Pittman Center elementary school) in coming weeks. The exhibit will feature photographs from the late mayor's storied life, including childhood days in Greenbrier, his career with the National Park Service, and legacy as mayor of Pittman Center. Objects featured in the 8-foot-tall exhibit case will include Glenn's ranger hat, his medal for being named one of the 100 most influential people in the park's history, and some of the books he authored. We'll be sure to include an installation date in future issues of this newsletter.